

City of Seattle

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Action (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write “do not know” or “does not apply.” Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about permanent regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered “does not apply.” In addition, complete the Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words “project”, “applicant,” and “property or site” should be read as “proposal,” “proposer,” and “affected geographic area,” respectively.

A. BACKGROUND:

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

2009 Comprehensive Plan Amendments – North Rainier Hub Urban Village
Neighborhood Plan Update (North Rainier Plan Update)

2. Name of Applicant:

City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
PO Box 34019
Seattle, Washington 98124-4019
Contact: Mark Troxel (206) 615-1739

4. Date checklist prepared:

December 10, 2009.

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

6. Proposed timing or schedule (include phasing if applicable):

Public hearing: February 2010
City Council Vote: February or March 2010

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activities related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain:

This proposal is for a nonproject action with no directly related plans for future physical expansions or activities. The Comp Plan amendments associated with the North Rainier Plan Update anticipate future rezoning of two areas currently designated SF5000, and review of potential height and density increases connected with implementing the neighborhood plan. In the future, the City will continue to engage in comprehensive, neighborhood and project-specific planning activities, many of which will address topics identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:

- The City prepared SEPA analyses prior to the adoption of the City's current Comprehensive Plan in 2004 (Ordinance 121701).
- The City prepared SEPA analyses prior to the adoption of the North Rainier Neighborhood Plan in 1999 (Ordinance 119671).

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain:

Policy changes in the North Rainier Plan Update will affect some future legislation, permit applications and City permit approvals, but there are no known projects directly related to the Comp Plan amendments now being recommended.

10. List any governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known:

The proposed amendments will require adoption by the City Council . Some portions of the proposal may also lead to additional actions by the City Council.

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site.

The proposed North Rainier Plan Update will revise Neighborhood Planning Element goals and policies to address potential zoning issues and other updated neighborhood priorities, and change the urban village boundary on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) as shown on Attachment 1. The amended and restated goals and policies shown on Attachment 2 are intended to recognize the growth expected for the neighborhood. Proposed goals of the North Rainier Plan Update include the following:

A Town Center with the highest densities in the neighborhood that is well connected with the regional light rail station, consists of housing and vital commercial activities, provides living-wage employment opportunities, is pedestrian and bicycle oriented, and has attractive streetscape and amenities.

A vibrant business district that serves North Rainier residents and is a destination shopping area with stores that serve the greater Valley.

A neighborhood served by a network of safe streets with amenities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

A transformed Rainier Avenue S between S Bayview Street and MLK Jr. Way S that functions as a pedestrian-oriented main street.

Development of Rainier Avenue South as a highly functioning, multi-modal boulevard-style "complete street" that serves as the spine of Rainier Valley and retains its existing vistas of Mount Rainier.

Development of Martin Luther King Jr. Way as a landscaped boulevard-style "complete street", and part of the neighborhood's network of streets with amenities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders.

Foster a vibrant, business district that serves North Rainier residents and is a destination shopping area with stores that serve the greater Valley.

Ethnic and cultural diversity is a continuous presence in the businesses and community.

Development within the town center prioritizes the inclusion of a range of more dense mixed-income housing units.

Promote the North Rainier Urban Village as a “Green Hub” providing green jobs and training, and green development.

A community that supports and provides opportunities for the neighborhood’s youth.

An improved and activated “ring of green” surrounding the urban village, with strong connections to the greenbelts, boulevards and parks, augmented with a hierarchy of open spaces.

North Rainier is known as a safe and hospitable neighborhood through its residents’ increased awareness of community-based crime prevention programs.

- 12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.**

The amendments would affect the North Rainier Hub Urban Village Shown on Attachment 3.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS:

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site: (circle one) Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:**

The North Rainier neighborhood is a valley with steep slopes generally along the western edge (toward Beacon Hill) and to the northeast with moderately steep slopes along the eastern edge (toward Mt Baker). The proposed amendments should not increase the potential for earth impacts.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?**

The steepest slopes in the North Rainier neighborhood approach 45% along the edge of Beacon Hill.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.**

Soils conditions vary considerably throughout the North Rainier neighborhood and typically include a mix of glacial till bisected by a historic stream bed (the Rainier Valley).

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.**

Not applicable. Specific project actions requiring soil analysis would require SEPA review at the time they are proposed.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

Specific project actions requiring filling or grading would require SEPA review at the time they are proposed.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

Specific project actions requiring clearing or construction would require SEPA review at the time they are proposed.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

The area is already largely developed with buildings and roadway surfaces. Implementation of any of the proposed amendments would not significantly change existing conditions. Future projects will undergo SEPA review on a site-specific basis.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, other impacts to the earth, if any:**

None required.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood, smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

Implementation of the North Rainier Plan Update's Comprehensive Plan amendments is not expected to result in significant long-term air emissions. Future actions authorized by any of these amendments will undergo project-level SEPA review, during which time air quality impacts would be assessed.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

None applicable to this nonproject action.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**

No measures are proposed.

3. Water

a. Surface

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

There are no surface water bodies located within the North Rainier Hub Urban Village.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

The proposed North Rainier Plan Update amendments do not include specific construction projects.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

None expected. The proposed North Rainier Plan Update amendments do not include specific construction projects. Any actions that require fill or dredge material may be required to undergo project-specific SEPA review.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable to this nonproject action. The proposed North Rainier Plan Update amendments do not include specific construction projects. Future projects that require surface water withdrawals or diversions may be required to undergo site-specific SEPA review.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

No part of the North Rainier Hub Urban Village is located within a 100-year floodplain.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

Not applicable to the North Rainier Plan Update. The proposed amendments are not site-specific.

b. Ground

- 1) **Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable. The proposed North Rainier Plan Update amendments are not site-specific.

- 2) **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example, domestic sewage, industrial, containing the following chemicals... agricultural, etc). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

Not applicable. The proposed amendments are not site-specific.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water)

- 1) **Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

Not applicable. Future projects will undergo SEPA review on a site-specific basis.

- 2) **Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

Not as a result of this nonproject action.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:**

None proposed.

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:**

- ☐ **deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other**
- ☐ **evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other**
- ☐ **shrubs**
- ☐ **grass**
- ☐ **pasture**
- ☐ **crop or grain**
- ☐ **wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other**
- ☐ **water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other**
- ☐ **other types of vegetation**

Many of the types of plants listed above may be found in the North Rainier Hub

Urban Village. The proposed North Rainier Plan Update amendments are not expected to result in increased impacts on plants.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

No vegetation will be removed or altered as a result of this nonproject action.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Threatened or endangered species do exist in Seattle. The proposed North Rainier Plan Update amendments, as a nonproject action, would not likely create new direct or immediate impacts on threatened or endangered species. See Section D of this checklist, however, for other commentary at a programmatic level on the indirect or long-term potential for impacts as a result of the implementation of the proposal. Future projects will undergo SEPA review on a site-specific basis.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

None are proposed for this nonproject action.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

There are a number of types of animals in Seattle. The proposed North Rainier Plan Update amendments, as a nonproject action, would not likely create new impacts on animals. Future projects will undergo SEPA review on a site-specific basis.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Threatened or endangered species do exist in Seattle. The proposed North Rainier Plan Update amendments, as a nonproject action, would not likely create new direct or immediate impacts on threatened or endangered species. See Section D of this checklist for other commentary at a programmatic level on the indirect or long-term potential for impacts as a result of the implementation of the proposal. Future projects will undergo SEPA review on a site-specific basis.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Seattle includes migratory bird species and is located within the Pacific Flyway, one of the four principal north-south migration routes for birds in North America. The Pacific Flyway encompasses the entire Puget Sound Basin. The proposed

North Rainier Plan Update amendments, as a nonproject action, would not likely result in direct or immediate impacts on migratory birds. See Section D of this checklist, however, for commentary at a programmatic level on the indirect or long-term potential for impacts as a result of the implementation of the proposal.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None proposed. Future projects will undergo site-specific SEPA review.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Not applicable.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Not applicable to this nonproject action. Future projects will undergo SEPA review on a site-specific basis.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None required for this nonproject action.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

None proposed.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example, traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Not applicable to this nonproject action. Future projects will undergo SEPA review on a site-specific basis.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Not applicable to this nonproject action. Future projects will undergo SEPA review on a site-specific basis.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None proposed.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

There are various residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and recreational uses located in the North Rainier Hub Urban Village.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Not as a result of this nonproject action.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Zoning designations vary widely from site to site within the North Rainier Hub Urban Village, including at this time, most of the City's zoning designations.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Comprehensive plan designations for the North Rainier Hub Urban Village are shown on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) within the Land Use Element of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan (available online here: www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Seattle_s_Comprehensive_Plan/ComprehensivePlan). The North Rainier Updates propose changing the FLUM designation in two areas

as follows (See Attachment 1):

- Eight parcels currently designated Single Family Residential Area located on the west side of Rainier Ave S. immediately south of S. Walden Street are located between NC3-65 and L-3 and are proposed to be designated as Multifamily Residential Area. The North Rainier Plan Update recommends that this area be rezoned to be consistent with adjacent properties.
- Eleven parcels currently designated Single Family Residential Area located west of 25th Ave. S. (west of the QFC/Rite-Aid stores) and east of 24th Ave. S. (an unimproved right-of-way) are proposed to be designated a Commercial/Mixed Use Area in order to be more consistent with zoning to the east. The City-owned greenbelt and a steep grade change to the west offers a buffer to Single Family Residential Areas on Beacon Hill. The North Rainier Plan Update recommends changing the urban village boundary to include these parcels.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

None of the areas where there are specific proposed North Rainier Plan Update amendments to the Comp Plan is within the shoreline.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an environmentally sensitive area? If so, specify.

The area includes environmentally sensitive areas, including a liquefaction zone along the floor of the Rainier Valley, steep slopes and landslide-prone areas to the east and west of the valley floor, an abandoned landfill at the Lowe's site (formerly Sick's Stadium) and a number of small wetlands, among others. The proposed amendments are not reasonably likely to affect environmentally sensitive areas in an adverse manner because changes do not pertain to these areas in particular, nor are indirect effects expected. Future projects will undergo SEPA review on a site-specific basis.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None proposed.

I. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

None proposed.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None proposed.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

c. Proposed measures to reduce aesthetic impacts, if any:

None proposed.

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None proposed.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None proposed.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Several such places and objects are found within the North Rainier Hub Urban Village.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

This site-specific question is not applicable to this nonproject action.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None proposed.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe. (indicate whether public or private).**

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

None proposed.

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.**

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

Not applicable to this nonproject action.

C. SIGNATURE:

I, the undersigned, state that to the best of my knowledge the above information is true and complete. It is understood that the lead agency may withdraw any declaration of nonsignificance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part.

Signature: _____ [signature on file]
Mark Troxel
Urban Planner

Date Submitted: December 10, 2009

This checklist was reviewed by:

_____ [signature on file]
William K. Mills
Senior Land Use Planner, City of Seattle
Department of Planning and Development

_____ Date

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering the questions, be aware of the extent of the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

The proposed North Rainier Plan Update amendments (summarized at A.11) generally have minimal potential to generate direct or immediate significant adverse environmental impacts. The potential indirect or extended impacts related to changed future conditions associated with the proposals are discussed in response to the questions below, to the extent that impacts can be identified.

Although analysis of potential impacts that may result from these proposals and their associated legislative actions have been analyzed in some detail, further consideration of their potential impacts in the context of the North Rainier Plan Update's influence on future actions is discussed in response to questions below to the extent that impacts can be identified.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Water Resources

The proposed changes would result in no direct adverse impacts related to water resources. The proposed updates to neighborhood plan goals and policies, if they lead to an increase in the development of residential and nonresidential development within the North Rainier Hub Urban Village, could indirectly lead to short-term construction impacts, including potentially increased discharges to water, and to a possible increase in demand on the city's water resources and increased discharges to water. Regulatory changes or individual projects that may result from the proposals, however, will be subject to more focused environmental review.

Air Quality

The proposed changes would result in no direct impacts related to air quality. The proposed updates to neighborhood plan goals and policies, if they lead to an increase in the development of residential and nonresidential development within North Rainier Hub Urban Village, could indirectly lead to short-term impacts to air quality from increased construction activity. Regulatory changes or individual projects that may result from the proposals, however, will be subject to more focused environmental review. Such construction projects would likely be subject to project-specific environmental review.

Noise

The proposed changes are not likely to result in direct impacts related to noise. The proposed updates to neighborhood plan goals and policies, if they lead to an increase

in the development of residential and nonresidential development within North Rainier Hub Urban Village, could indirectly result in short-term noise impacts associated with increased construction activity. Individual projects that may result from the proposals, however, will be subject to more focused environmental review. Such construction projects would likely be subject to project-specific environmental review.

Production, Storage or Release of Toxic or Hazardous Substances

The proposed changes would result in no direct impacts related to toxic or hazardous substances. The proposed updates to neighborhood plan goals and policies could indirectly result in the short-term production, storage or release of toxic or hazardous substances associated with increased construction activity. These potential adverse impacts, if they occur, will be subject to project-specific environmental review.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Additional project-specific environmental analyses and threshold determinations that may result in mitigation measures in the future.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life?

Plants

The proposed changes would result in no direct impacts related to plant life. The proposed updates to neighborhood plan goals and policies, if they lead to an increase in the development of residential and nonresidential development within North Rainier Hub Urban Village, could indirectly affect plants, animals, fish or marine life due to potentially increased construction activity. These potential adverse impacts, if they occur, will be subject to project-specific environmental review.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Additional project-specific environmental analyses and threshold determinations in the future that may result in mitigation measures.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The proposed changes would result in no direct impacts related to energy or natural resources.

The proposed updates to the FLUM and to neighborhood plan goals and policies could indirectly lead to increased development within the North Rainier Hub Urban Village. Increased development activity in the area would increase demands on energy and natural resources in both the short and long term. Directing new growth into existing urban villages and station areas, however, reduces the burden of anticipated growth on existing sources of energy and natural resources in comparison to growth that would occur outside of these areas. These potential adverse impacts, if they occur, will be subject to project-specific environmental review.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

No measures are proposed.

4. **How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened, or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?**

The proposed North Rainier Plan Update would result in no direct impacts on environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection. The proposals could indirectly lead to increased development that would affect environmentally sensitive areas and areas designated for government protection. Potential adverse impacts, if they occur, will be subject to more specific environmental analysis.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts:

Additional project-specific environmental analyses and threshold determinations in the future.

5. **How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land and shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?**

The proposed changes would be unlikely to allow or encourage land uses or shoreline uses that are incompatible with existing plans.

Proposed amendments to the FLUM within the North Rainier Plan Update could, if successful, indirectly affect land and shoreline uses by promoting greater density and increased infrastructure and amenities within this hub urban village and light rail station area.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

For some future actions related to these proposed changes, City staff will analyze project-specific land use impact implications at a later date, and require mitigation measures for any identified significant adverse impacts.

6. **How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?**

Transportation

The proposed changes would result in no direct increase in demand on transportation or public services and utilities. The North Rainier Plan Update will generally promote and enhance development within the North Rainier Hub Urban Village and its light rail station area. Increased development activity in these areas would increase demands on transportation. Directing new growth into existing urban villages and station areas, however, reduces its burden on the existing transportation network and promotes both

more use of transit service and more efficient delivery of goods and services in comparison to growth outside of urban villages. Projects that may indirectly result from the proposals would likely be subject to project-specific environmental review.

Public Services and Utilities

The North Rainier Plan Update will promote and enhance development within urban villages and light rail station areas. Increased development activity within urban villages and light rail station areas will likely increase demand for public services and utilities, but are also potentially likely to promote more efficient delivery of public services and utilities in comparison to growth that might otherwise occur outside of urban villages.

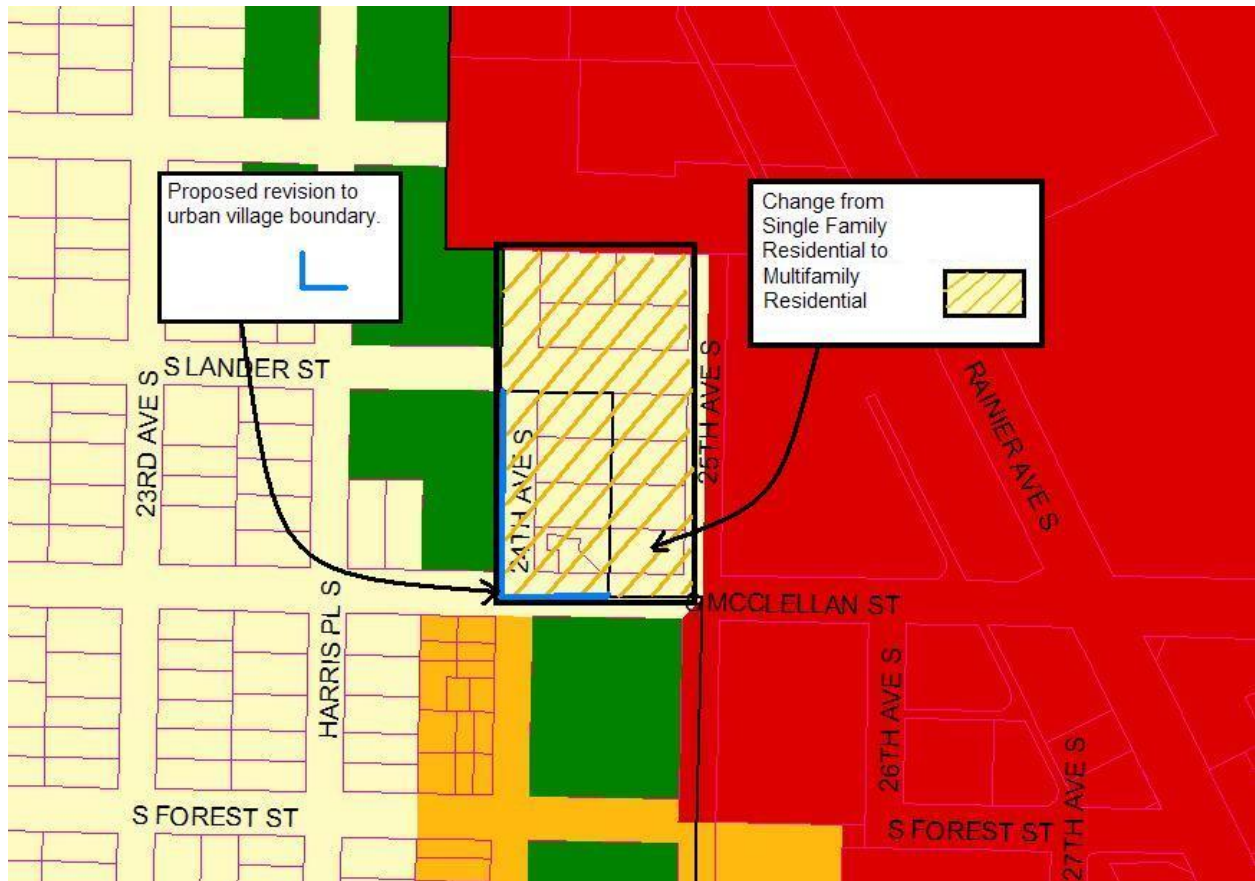
Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demands are:

Additional project-specific environmental analyses and threshold determinations in the future for some of the actions listed above.

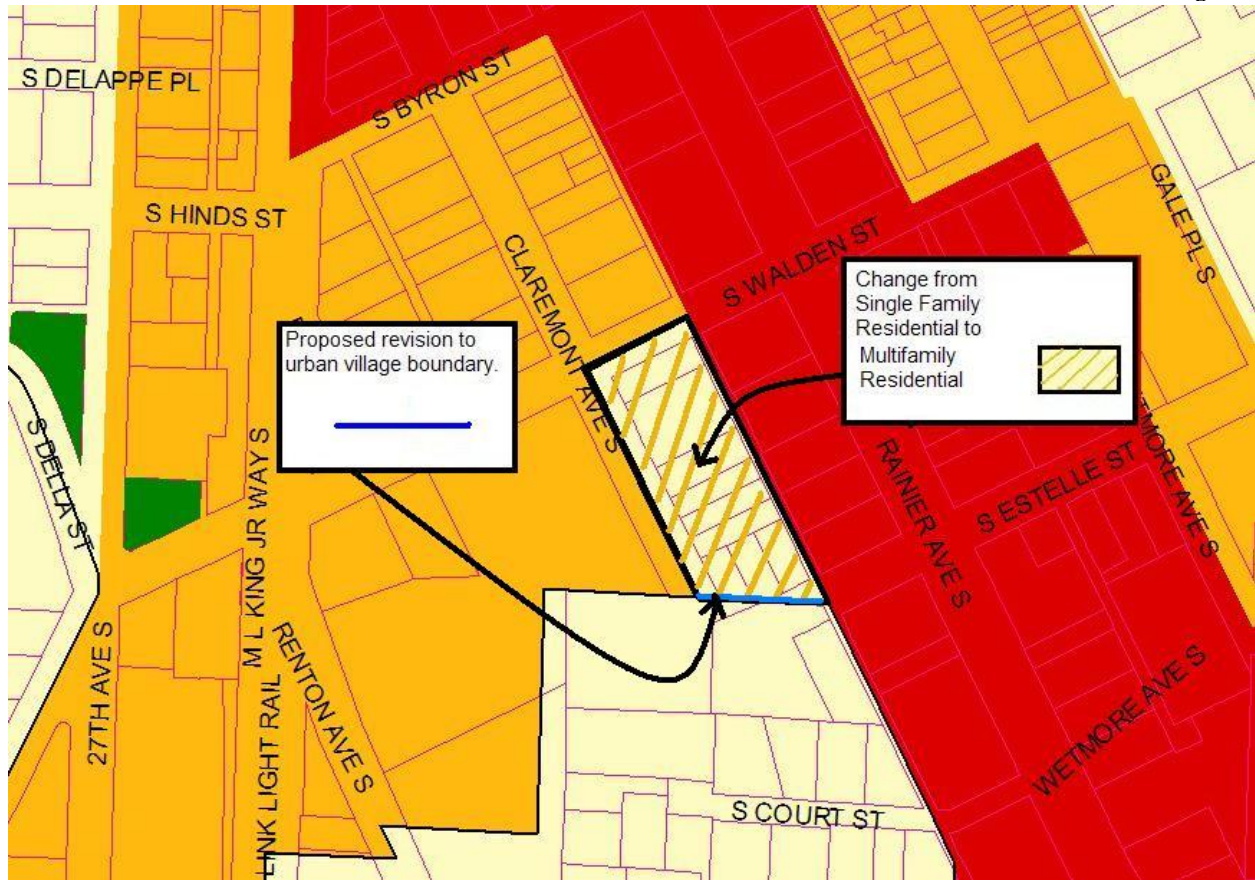
7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

None of the proposals are known to result in conflicts with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for protection of the environment.

Attachment 1: North Rainier Hub Urban Village FLUM Changes.



Map 1A. Proposed North Rainier Hub Urban Village Boundary and FLUM Change.



Map 1B. Proposed North Rainier Hub Urban Village Boundary and FLUM Change.

Attachment 2. Proposed Goals and Policies: North Rainier Hub Urban Village

Creating Choices for Living, Working and Play

Goal 1. A vibrant, business district that serves North Rainier residents and is a destination shopping area with stores that serve the greater Valley.

Policy 1.A. Encourage the inclusion of affordable commercial space in new development.

Policy 1.B. Encourage retail and services that are destination for customers from the Valley and beyond, as well as those that support daily and monthly needs of residents.

Goal 2. Ethnic and cultural diversity is a continued presence in the businesses and community.

Policy 2.A. Promote the location of cultural community centers and services in the transit-accessible areas of the neighborhood.

Policy 2.B. Provide technical and financial support to small business that meet the needs of the ethnic and cultural businesses in the neighborhood.

Policy 2.C. Encourage community-based efforts for cross-cultural integration among the business owners as well as among the broader community.

Policy 2.D. Encourage the construction of physical improvements and activity programming that are culturally relevant to people with disabilities throughout the town center.

Goal 3. Development within the town center prioritizes housing that serves households across a range of incomes.

Policy 3.A. Encourage a mix of home prices and sizes through active use of incentives and funding.

Goal 4. Promote the North Rainier Hub Urban Village as a “Green Hub” providing green jobs and training, and green development.

Policy 4.A. Support training programs and jobs in North Rainier that capitalize on the green technology market in order to support the role of North Rainier as the hub urban village within the Rainier Valley.

Policy 4.B. Identify and promote opportunities for green infrastructure and development.

Goal 5. A community that supports and provides opportunities for the neighborhood’s youth.

Policy 5.A. In fulfilling its role as the hub urban village for the Rainier Valley, North Rainier should include training programs and jobs for youth that prepare them to for family wage jobs in the area and region.

Policy 5.B. Support positive and safe activities for youth.

Goal 6. Improve and activate the “ring of green” surrounding the urban village by providing strong connections to the greenbelts, boulevards and parks and augmenting them with a hierarchy of open spaces.

Policy 6.A. Seek to preserve environmentally sensitive hillsides, particularly those in the Cheasty Greenbelt, and seek to protect them from further residential development.

Policy 6.B. Support partnerships with Parks, SDOT, DON, utilities, nonprofits and the community to enhance street-end stairs, and create safe trails where appropriate through the surrounding greenbelts.

Policy 6.C. Seek to enhance community pride through establishment of a multicultural community center, multicultural community festivals, youth mentoring, and other youth programs.

Policy 6.D. Design parks and open spaces and programming to accommodate users of diverse ages, interests and cultures.

Policy 6.E. Work with available resources, including levy funds, general funds and partnerships with developers, to create a hierarchy of publicly accessible open spaces that address the gaps identified in the parks gap analysis; this could encompass publically accessible private spaces.

Policy 6.F. Support local agriculture and access to locally grown food through public mechanisms such as P-Patches and the Cultivating Communities program, as well as nonprofit and private mechanisms including farmers markets and on-site landscaping.

Goal 7. North Rainier is known as a safe and hospitable neighborhood through its residents’ increased awareness of community-based crime prevention programs.

Policy 7.A. Promote uses around transit facilities such as businesses open into the evening hours, and housing that provides "eyes on the street."

Policy 7.B. Seek opportunities for the community and the Seattle Police Department to strengthen partnerships.

Shaping a Transit-Oriented Town Center

TC Goal 1. A Town Center that concentrates housing, commercial uses, services and employment; that is well served by transit and non-motorized travel options; and that is well

designed and attractive to pedestrians. A vibrant, business district that serves North Rainier residents and is a destination shopping area with stores that serve the greater Valley.

TC Policy 1.A. Foster development of a shopping district comprised of businesses that provide products and services that meet the needs of community members from different cultural backgrounds.

TC Policy 1.B. Assess utility capacity within the Town Center for its ability to support the desired future density.

TC Policy 1.C. Strengthen local business associations that include and support the presence and growth of businesses owned by immigrant and minority community members.

TC Policy 1.D. Support and expand the existing diverse mix of generally small-scale businesses.

TC Policy 1.E. Include a portion of single-family area located between 24th Ave. S. and 25th Ave. S. north of S. McClellan St. within the urban village and within the Station Area Overlay District, and support a multifamily zoning designation that would allow more compact residential development.

TC Policy 1.F. Within mixed-use zones in the Station Area Overlay District, define and consider minimum residential densities in order to create the critical mass of people and activity for a Town Center.

TC Goal 2. A neighborhood served by a network of safe streets with amenities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

TC Policy 2.A. Create seamless pedestrian and bicycle links within the Town Center, and to the surrounding community facilities.

TC Policy 2.B. Prioritize development of universally accessible routes between the Town Center and locations such as Lighthouse for the Blind and Center Park.

TC Policy 2.C. Ensure standards for new development projects that accommodate a vibrant pedestrian environment throughout the Town Center.

TC Policy 2.D. Enhance access throughout the Town Center for people of all ages and abilities.

TC Goal 3. Development of Rainier Avenue S. as a highly functioning, multi-modal "complete street" that serves as the spine of the Rainier Valley and retains its existing vistas of Mount Rainier. Development of Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. as a landscaped "complete street," and part of the neighborhood's network of streets with amenities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and

transit riders. A transformed Rainier Avenue S. between S. Bayview St. and Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. that functions as a pedestrian-oriented main street.

TC Policy 3.A. Promote alternative transportation programs, such as bicycle commuting, local hiring, van pools, and transit ridership.

TC Policy 3.B. Support actions that improve the pedestrian and transit functions along Rainier Avenue S. between S. Bayview Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. so that the section becomes more of a local main street for the North Rainier neighborhood.

